

ISTITUTO
ACTON



Pontifical Athenaeum
Regina Apostolorum

WAR AND PEACE: CONFLICT AND CULTURE IN THE MODERN WORLD



27 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH 2023

a three-day symposium for professors and graduate students

AULA MASTER

PONITIFICAL ATHENAEUM REGINA APOSTOLORUM

Via Aldobrandeschi, 190 - Roma

SYMPOSIUM MODERATOR



Mr. Michael Severance, Istituto Acton

He is director of Acton's Rome office, Istituto Acton where he leads a talented team to engage religious leaders in the curia, pontifical universities, seminaries and other influential institutions in Rome and Europe while organizing Acton's conferences and seminars. He is also in charge of many of Acton's foreign-language publications. Having worked as a Vatican journalist, he is active in the mass media as a writer and contributor from Rome and is member of the Board of Writers for the Van Thuan Observatory for Social Doctrine. By way of various public relations initiatives, he is responsible for expanding the institute's valuable networks in the academy and related spheres of thought leadership. He earned his M.A. in Philosophy and Modern Languages from the University of Oxford and teaches aesthetics at The Catholic University of America's Rome Center.

SPEAKERS: 27 FEBRUARY (afternoon)



Prof. Eamonn O'Higgins, LC Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum

He is a full-time professor of philosophy at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum, where he currently teaches moral and political philosophy as well as courses on contemporary political philosophers and the political thought of Joseph Ratzinger/Pope Benedict XVI. He studied a Master's in Law at Trinity College, Dublin (Ireland) and philosophy and theology at the Gregorian University and at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum. He was ordained priest in 1994, and is also a Spiritual Father at Mater Ecclesiae College and manager of the Vatican (St. Peter's) Cricket Team.

He is the author of *Person-centred Politics*.



Prof. Carlo Lottieri, University of Verona

He teaches political philosophy at the University of Verona and philosophy of law and social sciences at the Lugano Faculty of Theology (Switzerland). He earned a degree in philosophy from the University of Genoa, an M.A. in philosophy from the Institut Universitaire d'Etudes Européennes, a second M.A. and a Ph.D. from the Sorbonne in Paris. His research interests include philosophy of law, federalism, libertarianism, political theology, religion and public life, and private property. He directs the Political Theory Department at the free market think tank Istituto Bruno

Leoni and is author of numerous books, including his most recent *Un'idea elvetica di libertà: Nella crisi della modernità europea* and *Every New Right Is A Freedom Lost*.

SPEAKERS: 28 FEBRUARY (morning)



Prof. John Pinheiro, Acton Institute

He is Acton's Director of Research and oversees the *Journal of Markets and Morality*, the institute's book publications, academic grants, and awards. Previously, he was professor of history at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he founded the college's popular semester-in-Rome and Catholic Studies programs. He has written numerous academic and popular articles on the early American republic and American religious history. His books include the award-winning *Missionaries of Republicanism: A Religious History of the Mexican-American War* (Oxford, 2014) and *Manifest Ambition: James K. Polk and Civil-Military Relations during the Mexican War* (Praeger, 2007). In 2019 he published *The American Experiment in Ordered Liberty for the Acton Institute*. He lectures widely and makes frequent appearances on National Public Radio, "Talking History" on Newstalk-Dublin, Radio Free Korea, and CSPAN.



H.E. Stepan Sus, Curial Bishop, Archeparchy of Kiev–Galicia

He studied at the Holy Spirit Theological Seminary in Lviv and at the Ukrainian Catholic University before being ordained a priest in 2006. From 2009-2010 he earned his Master in Philosophy at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, defending a thesis entitled "Man in the Context of Interpersonal Communication: Dietrich von Hildebrand and Emanuel Levinas." From 2014-2015 he pursued a second Master in Pastoral Theology at the Catholic University of Lublin (Poland) with the thesis "Military Chaplaincy in the Light of the Second Vatican Council." From 2006 to 2019, he was an army chaplain in the Archdiocese of Lviv and was appointed Sinkel of the Archdiocese of Lviv for military personnel, students and orphans as Rector of the Garrison Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Lviv. In 2019 Pope Francis appointed him Curial Bishop of Ukrainian Catholic Major Archeparchy of Kiev–Galicia and was consecrated at the Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ in January of 2020. He has been awarded the Order of Hetman Petro Sahaidachny National Ground Forces Academy 'For Distinguished Service to the Armed Forces of Ukraine' and a Third Class Order of Merit by the President of Ukraine. He speaks Ukrainian, English, Polish, Russian, French.

SPEAKERS: 28 FEBRUARY (afternoon)



Mr. Michael Miller, Acton Institute

Michael Matheson Miller is Chief of Strategic Initiatives and Senior Research Fellow at the Acton Institute. He is the Director and Producer of the award-winning documentary, *Poverty, Inc.*, the *PovertyCure DVD Series*, and *The Good Society Series*, and was the founding director of PovertyCure project which promotes entrepreneurial solutions to poverty in the developing world. Much of his work focuses on the intersection between moral philosophy and theology with economics, poverty, entrepreneurship, and culture. He is the host of the Moral Imagination Podcast and a Distinguished Fellow at the Busch School of Business at The Catholic University of America. He is the author of *Digital Contagion* and the forthcoming *Excluded: How Global Humanitarianism Excludes the Poor from Justice and Prosperity*. Before coming to the Acton Institute, he taught philosophy and political science at Ave Maria College in Nicaragua and was the chair of the philosophy and theology department. He has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and has graduate degrees from Nagoya University's Graduate School of International Development (Japan), Franciscan University, and an M.B.A. from Thunderbird Graduate School of Global Business. He serves on the boards of the Sacred Heart Classical Academy and the Dietrich von Hildebrand Legacy Project.



Mr. John O'Sullivan, Danube Institute

He is President of the Budapest-based Danube Institute which provides an independent center of intellectual debate for conservatives and classical liberals to engage with center-right institutions, scholars, political parties, and individuals to discuss problems of mutual interest. He has worked as the English Editor of the *Hungarian Review*, International Editor of *Quadrant Magazine*, and as the Senior Editor-at-Large and columnist for the *National Review*, where he was Editor from 1988-1997. Previously, he was Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Executive Editor, Senior Editor at *The London Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*, and Editor-in-Chief of *United Press International*. He is co-founder of the Washington, D. C.-based think tank *21st Century Initiatives*. He was also the founder and Co-chairman of the *New Atlantic Initiative*, an international bipartisan effort dedicated to reinvigorating and expanding the Atlantic community of democracies. Launched at the Congress of Prague in May 1996 by President Vaclav Havel and Lady Thatcher, it played a major role in bringing the countries of Central and Eastern Europe into NATO. He proudly served his British government as a special adviser to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and is author of *The President*, *The Pope* and *The Prime Minister* which has been translated into seven languages.

SPEAKERS: 1 March (afternoon)



Fr. Robert Sirico, Acton Institute

He is President Emeritus and co-founder of the Acton Institute. He lectures at academic, religious, cultural, and business institutions around the world and is the author of numerous articles and books including *The Economics of the Parables*, *Defending the Free Market: A Moral Case for the Free Economy*, *The Entrepreneurial Vocation*, *A Moral Basis for Liberty*, and is co-author of *A Field Guide for the Hero's Journey*. His media contributions to religious, political, economic, and social matters have been published in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, *London Financial Times*, and the *National Review*, among others, and is often called upon by international TV networks such as CNN, ABC, EWTN, BBC, and CBS for his expert opinions. He is a member of the Mont Pèlerin Society, the American Academy of Religion, and the Philadelphia Society. He earned a B.A. in English Literature at the University of Southern California and St. Mary's University (London) and a Master of Divinity from the Catholic University of America.



H.E. Zbignevs Stankevics, Archbishop of Riga, Latvia

He studied engineering in Riga and worked in this field until 1990. In 1996 he earned his Master's from the Faculty of Theology of John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin and was ordained in 1996 in Riga. He then served as a Spiritual Director and Professor at the Riga Major Metropolitan Seminary. He later studied at the Pontifical Lateran University, earning his licentiate in fundamental theology in 2004 followed by a doctorate in theology in 2008. He returned to Latvia and continued his pastoral work in Riga and served as Spiritual Director of the Riga Major Metropolitan Seminary and Director at the Riga Higher Institute of Religious Sciences. In 2010 he was ordained Archbishop of Riga. Since 2011, he has participated in every General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (on New Evangelization, Family, Youth) representing the Latvian Bishops' Conference. In 2012, he was appointed member of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and in 2017 elected Chairman of the Evangelization & Culture Commission of the Council of Bishops' Conferences of Europe. He is author of *Dove va l'Occidente? La profezia di Bernhard Welte* about the West's profound social, cultural, and spiritual transformations during today's epochal transitions. It was published in Italian and translated into Latvian, Polish, and Russian.



Prof. Philip Booth, St. Mary's University, London

He is Director of Catholic Mission and Professor of Finance, Public Policy and Ethics at St. Mary's University, London. He worked for the Bank of England as an adviser on financial stability and was Editorial and Programme Director at the Institute of Economic Affairs. He has written widely, including a number of books, on investment, finance, and the relationship between Catholic social teaching and economics such as *The Economics of Fair Trade: A Christian Perspective* and is a regular contributor to mass media outlets and academic journals. He also works as Director of Policy and Research at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

Day 1: February 27 (Monday)

3:00-3:15 Introductions - Michael Severance

3:20-4:00 Seminar 1: War and Peace: Conflict and Culture in the Modern World.

An Overview

Speaker: Fr. Eamonn O'Higgins, LC., Professor of Political and Moral Philosophy, Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum

4:00-4:30 Q&A

4:35-5:15 Seminar 2: The Political and Economic Visions of War and Peace

Speaker: Prof. Carlo Lottieri, Professor of Law, Economics, and Political Philosophy University of Verona; Lugano Faculty of Theology (Switzerland)

5:15-5:45 Q&A

5:45: Conclusion & Announcements - Michael Severance

5:50-6:20 Post Conference Hospitality in Foyer

6:30 Departure for Private Dinner

7:00-9:00 Dinner (Da Arturo)

Day 2: February 28 (Tuesday)

9:00-9:15 Introductions - Michael Severance

9:20-10:00 Seminar 3: War in History: Motivations and Justifications.

Speaker: Prof. John Pinheiro, Director of Research, Acton Institute

10:00-10.30 Q&A

10:30-11:00: Coffee Break (in foyer)

11:00-11:40 Seminar 4: War in Ukraine: A Voice from the Frontline

Speaker: H.E. Stepan Sus, Curial Bishop of the Archeparchy of Kiev-Galicia, Former military chaplain to the Ukrainian Army

11.40-12:10 Q&A

12:10-12:15 Conclusion & Announcements - Michael Severance

12:45-14:00 Lunch (on own)

Day 2: February 28 (Tuesday) - CONTNUED

14:30-3:00 Welcome coffee (foyer)

3:00: 3:15 Introduction & Announcements – Michael Severance

3:20-4:00 Seminar 5: Digital Contagion: The Divisive Influence of Media

Speaker: Mr. Michael Miller, Chief of Strategic Initiatives and Media Producer, Acton Institute

4:00-4:30 Q&A

4:35-5:15 Seminar 6: The Geopolitical Landscape: Future Threats to Peace

Speaker: Mr. John O’Sullivan, President of the Danube Institute

5:15-5:45 Q&A

5:45- 5:50 Conclusion & Announcements - Michael Severance

5:50-7:00 Networking Aperitivo (foyer)

Dinner private with speakers only (optional): 7:30-9:30

Day 3: March 1 (Wednesday)

2:30-3:30 Welcome coffee (foyer)

3:00-3:15 Introductions & Announcements – Michael Severance

3.20-4:00 -Seminar 7: Cultural Struggle for a Free Society

Speaker: Fr. Robert Sirico, President Emeritus of the Acton Institute

4.00: 4:40 Seminar 8: Spiritual Warfare Today

Speaker: H.E. Zbignevs Stankevics, Archbishop of Riga, Latvia

Q&A 4:40-5:10

5:15-6:05 Seminar 9: Effective Tactics in Rebuilding an Authentic Christian Culture

Speaker: Prof. Philip Booth, Director of Catholic Mission and Professor of Finance, Public Policy and Ethics St. Mary's University (London).

Q&A 6:05-6:35

6:35-6:45: Concluding Remarks – Prof. Eamonn O’Higgins

7:00 Departure for private dinner

7:30-9:30 Dinner (Da Arturo)

ACTON INSTITUTE

*promoting a free and virtuous society characterized by individual
liberty and sustained by religious principles*

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